



Minnesota State University, Mankato

Blue Line Club

Bylaws



Article I – Name of Organization

The name of this organization shall be the Minnesota State University Blue Line Club, hereinafter referred to as the Blue Line Club.

Article II – Purposes

Section 1 – The Blue Line Club shall provide public support and encouragement to the intercollegiate ice hockey program at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Section 2 – The Blue Line Club shall provide a forum whereby those interested may discuss issues and promote events which relate to the men’s and women’s ice hockey program at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Section 3 – The Blue Line Club shall assist in fund raising efforts designed to generate financial support for the men’s and women’s ice hockey program’s general needs and to cover the costs of athletic talent grants and scholarships for the student athletes at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Article III – Membership of the Organization

Section 1 - Members of the organization are those who meet all the requirements as identified herein, subscribe to the purposes of the Blue Line Club, and who have been approved for membership by the Board of Directors.

Section 2 – Regular members of the Blue Line Club include both “corporate” members and “individual” members who are in good standing and have paid their annual dues by October 1 of the club’s fiscal year which begins each July 1. Regular member receive special benefits and considerations approved by the Board of Directors which are not available to other club members and are the only club members who can vote at the Club’s Annual Meeting.

Section 3 – Associate members of the Blue Line Club include the parents of current players of the men’s and women’s ice hockey team at Minnesota State University, Mankato, Associate members do not enjoy all the benefits of regular members, nor do they have to pay annual dues.

Section 4 – Honorary members of the Blue Line Club are those so designated by the Board of Directors and for a term approved specified by the Board. Honorary members do not enjoy all the benefits of regular members, nor do they have to pay annual dues.

Article IV – Board of Directors

Section 1 – Responsibilities and Powers. The Board of Directors of the Blue Line Club shall be responsible for all operations of the organization.

Section 2 – Board Membership. The Board of Directors of the Blue Line Club shall include a minimum of seven members or no more than eleven members who shall each serve for two year terms from the date of their election at the Annual Meeting. The terms of the board members shall be staggered whereby part of the Board shall be elected during odd numbered years with the remaining seats filled by election during even numbered years as determined by the Nominations Committee. [Amendment initiated November 10, 1997 and approved February 9, 1998.]

Subdivision 1 – The First Board of Directors shall be constituted immediately following the approval of these Bylaws and shall include seven regular voting members and six ex-officio nonvoting members. To ensure stability and continuity, the voting members of the First Board of Directors shall serve until the February, 1998, Annual Meeting where a successor Board shall be elected.

Subdivision 2 – Voting members of the Board of Directors shall be dues paying members.

Section 3 – Board Elections. Board members shall be elected at the Annual Meeting by and from among those regular Blue Line Club members in good standing.

Subdivision 1 – A Nominating Committee comprised of at least two Board members shall identify which seats need to be filled during the Annual Meeting each February. It shall ensure that the general membership of the Blue Line Club is aware of what seats are vacant, their term length, and the responsibilities that are expected of Board members. The Committee shall also encourage those members interested in becoming a member to submit their names to the Nominating Committee for its review.

Subdivision 2 – The Nominating Committee shall review all names submitted by the general membership and prepare a ballot listing its recommendations along with blank lines to facilitate the writing in of the names of candidates nominated from the floor during the Annual Meeting.

Subdivision 3 – Plurality Voting. To avoid a time-consuming voting process when three or more Board seats are up for election, seats shall be filled by candidates receiving the highest number of votes with each person casting a ballot only allowed to vote for up to the number of vacant board seats. (For example, since six Board seats fall vacant in an odd numbered year a Club member could vote for up to six names on the ballot with the overall top six vote getters judged the winners. Individual candidates do not have to get a majority of those present and voting at the Annual Meeting to win a Board seat).

Section 4 – Ex-officio Nonvoting Members of the Board. Members of the Board shall include men’s hockey coach (or designee), the women’s hockey coach (or designee), the Director of Intercollegiate Athletics at Minnesota State University, Mankato (or designee), a representative from MSU’s Intercollegiate Athletics Department who works with special projects/promotions and is appointed by the Athletics Director, the MSU faculty representative to the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA), a representative from the Mankato Area Hockey Association (MAHA), and a representative from the City of Mankato representing the Civic Center. [Amended on February 21, 2003 to include MAHA; amended March 13, 2006 to eliminate the MSU Vice President for Student Affairs (or designee).]

Subdivision 1 – Ex-officio members of the Board exist to enhance communication between and among regular members of the Board of Directors, community leaders, and Minnesota State University, Mankato employees who are involved in the men’s and women’s ice hockey program at the University.

Subdivision 2 – Ex-officio nonvoting Board members may make motions during meetings but cannot vote nor are they counted for purposes of establishing a quorum of the Board.

Subdivision 3 – Ex-officio nonvoting member seats may be created or abolished from time to time though a formal amendment to these Bylaws.

Subdivision 4 – Ex-officio nonvoting members need not be regular dues paying members of the Blue Line Club.

Subdivision 5 – Ex-officio members serve as long as they are the official representatives/designees of their appointing authority. They are not subject to election by the general membership of the Blue Line Club.

Section 5 – Vacancies of the Board

Subdivision 1 – A Nominating Committee made up of at least two Board members appointed by the Board President shall be constituted when a vacancy occurs in a regular voting Board member’s seat. The nominating Committee shall then notify the regular membership of the Blue Line Club soliciting names of those interested in filling the unexpired term of the vacant voting Board seat. The nominating Committee shall then review what names are submitted and shall recommend to the Board a suitable candidate to fill the unexpired term of the vacant Board seat.

Subdivision 2 – The Board shall then convene review the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, allow for other names to be presented in nomination during the Board meeting from Board members, and then shall elect the new member by a simple majority vote of those present and voting.

Subdivision 3 – Vacancies which occur in ex-officio nonvoting Board seats shall be filled by their respective appointing authority.

Article V – Officers of the Organization and of the Board of Directors

Section 1 – The Club President shall be elected by the Board of Directors at the first meeting of the Board following the Annual Meeting of the organization. The President shall act as the official spokesperson for the Blue Line Club and shall carry out such directives as approved by the Board of Directors or adopted by the regular members at the Annual Meeting of the Club. The President shall act as chair of the Board and shall conduct all meetings consistent with procedures outlined in *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*.

Section 2 – The Club Vice President shall carry out such duties as are assigned by the Club President or the Board of Directors. The Vice President shall temporarily assume the presidency in the event of a vacancy until such time as the Board elects a new president.

Section 3 – The Club Secretary-Treasurer shall be responsible for the recording and distribution of Board minutes, Club correspondence, and the maintaining of accurate financial records. The Secretary-Treasurer shall notify Board members in writing in advance of regular and special Board Meetings. The Secretary-Treasurer shall also notify Club members in writing of the date, time and place of the Annual Meeting of Club Members.

Section 4 – All officers shall serve a one year term and be elected by a majority vote of those Board members present and voting with a quorum in attendance. The President and the Vice President shall be regular dues paying members of the Blue Line Club; the Secretary-Treasurer may be a nonvoting ex-officio member of the Club.

Article VI – Removal from Office.

Section 1 – The Board may remove any officer or Board member when at least seven of the eleven regular voting Board members vote to remove said officer or Board member at a regular meeting of the Board where the meeting notice had included an agenda item specifying that removal was being sought.

Section 2 – Written notice of a meeting where a removal vote is contemplated shall be mailed to all regular and ex-officio nonvoting Board members at least seven days prior to the meeting date when the vote is anticipated. It shall take at least three regular Board members requesting the removal of an officer or Board member before the Secretary-Treasurer or the President shall place the matter on an agenda.

Article VII – Membership Dues

Section 1 – The Board of Directors shall establish annual membership dues for all membership categories of the Blue Line Club. Dues for each succeeding year shall be established by February 1.

Section 2 – At least six regular members of the Blue Line Club shall be required to establish membership rates and such action shall be communicated in writing to all Blue Line Club members.

Article VIII – Board Meetings and the Annual Meeting of the Membership

Section 1 – Board Meetings. The Board of Directors shall have at least three regular meetings meet during a twelve month fiscal year. Special meetings of the Board may also be called to deal with a specific issue identified in the meeting notice.

Section 2 – Annual Meeting of the Membership. The dues paying general membership of the Blue Line Club shall convene during February of each year to elect members to its Board of Directors, and review Club activities, promotions, and financial aspects.

Section 3 – Meeting Notices. The Secretary-Treasurer shall inform in writing all Board members of every regular and special meeting of the Board of Directors at least five work days in advance. Annual Meeting notices and special general membership meeting written notices shall be mailed by the Secretary-Treasurer at least five work days in advance of the date set for said meeting.

Section 4 – Parliamentary Code. All meetings of the organization and the Board of Directors shall be conducted in accordance with provisions contained in *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*, the Blue Line Club's parliamentary authority and code.

Section 5 – Quorums. A quorum of the Board shall be six of the eleven voting members. A quorum for meetings of the Club's general membership, including the Annual Meeting, shall be at least 5% of dues paying members in good standing.

Article IX – Financial Activities

Section 1 – Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the Blue Line Club shall commence July 1 and end June 30 of the following year.

Section 2- Depository. All income derived from Club activities shall be deposited in account(s) established with Minnesota State University, Mankato, and /or the Minnesota State University, Mankato Foundation, Inc.

Section 3 – Budgets. By June of each year the Board of Directors shall adopt an income and expenditure plan which deals with the succeeding fiscal year. Mid-year changes to the budget may be approved by the Board with a two-thirds vote, a quorum of the Board present.

Section 4 – Expenditures. Outlays and payments may be processed if they fall within a line item budget category already approved by the Board. From time to time the Club President, in consultation with the Secretary-Treasurer and MSU's Intercollegiate Athletics Director, may approve expenditures not in excess of \$500 per item without convening the Board to seek its approval. All such outlays shall be reported to the Board by the Secretary-Treasurer at the next regular Board being meeting.

Section 5 – Annual Financial Statements Required. The Secretary-Treasurer shall see that annual financial statements are prepared by September 30 of each year on all Blue Line Club related income and expenditures. Such statements shall be submitted to the Board and made available to Minnesota State University, Mankato, and upon request, representatives of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), the U.S. Department of Education and its Office of Civil Rights (OCR), and hockey conference representatives.

Article X – Member Violations of NCAA Rules Affecting Athlete Recruiting, Scholarship Support, and Gifts

No Club member shall interfere with and/or violate NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) rules affecting the recruitment of a student athlete, and/or loaning of money or giving of a gift to any athlete. Any incentive or subsidy to an athlete provided by a member of the Blue Line Club is prohibited and shall result in the expulsion of said member from the Club's membership. The Blue Line Club Board of Directors shall refer all information it comes across which appears to be a violation of NCAA rules to the Director of Intercollegiate Athletics at Mankato State University. All Blue Line Club members shall be informed in writing of this Bylaw provision when they join and/or renew their membership.

Article XI – Standing and Special Committees of the Board

Section 1 – Standing Committees may be created by the Board from time to time by a two-third vote and shall be assigned such functions as determined by the Board. A standing committee is one that has stature and permanence and is expected to routinely report to the Board on its activities.

Section 2 – Special committees may be created by the Board from time to time by a majority vote of the Board and shall be assigned such temporary or short-term duties as determined by the Board.

Section 3 – All members of standing committees are appointed by the Club President who shall also designate the committee's chair.

Article XII – Amending the Bylaws

Section 1 – Initiation. Amendments to these Bylaws may be initiated by petition signed by and five regular dues paying members of the Blue Line Club or by vote of a majority of the Board of Directors.

Section 2 – Approval. Before an amendment is adopted, the Board of Directors shall circulate the language of the proposed amendment to the full membership along with the Board's comments and recommendations. At least seven days from the mailing of the Bylaw amendment to the Club's membership, the Board of Directors shall decide on the proposal's merit, and, by a vote of at least seven regular members of the Board, shall adopt the amendment.

Certification

We, the undersigned, do hereby certify these Bylaws duly approved at an organization meeting of the Blue Line Club held on the 19th day of March, 1996

Club Officers

Kent Schwickert	First Blue Line Club President
Henry Okleshen	First Blue Line Club Vice President
David Cowan	First Blue Line Club Secretary-Treasurer

Board of Directors – Voting

<i>James Bullard</i>	Charter Board of Directors Member
<i>Steve Duea</i>	Charter Board of Directors Member
<i>Larry Morales</i>	Charter Board of Directors Member
<i>Henry Okleshen</i>	Charter Board of Directors Member
<i>Brad Reeves</i>	Charter Board of Directors Member
<i>Kent Schwickert</i>	Charter Board of Directors Member
<i>James Turk</i>	Charter Board of Directors Member

Board of Directors – Ex-officio Nonvoting

<i>Margaret Healy</i>	Charter Board of Directors Member MSU Student Affairs Vice President
<i>Don Amiot</i>	Charter Board of Directors Member MSU Men's Athletics Director
<i>Cheryl Regan</i>	Charter Board of Directors Member MSU Athletics Special Projects/Promotions
<i>Ron Hybertson</i>	Charter Board of Directors Member Conference Faculty Representative
<i>David Cowan</i>	Charter Board of Directors Member Maverick Boosters Club, Inc. Representative
<i>Don Brose</i>	Charter Board of Directors Member Mankato State University Ice Hockey Coach

Amendments approved on February 9, 1998; December 11, 2001; February 21, 2003, and March 13, 2006.

